THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) On 27th March 1986, Gas Authority of India Ltd. had invited fresh price bids to be submitted by 3rd April 1986 from the all four consortia which had earlier been qualified.

(b) Four fresh price bids were received on 3rd April 1986, from the four consortia led by SPIE CAPAG of France, Condux of Mexico, Snamprogetti of Italy and Nova Corp of Canada;

(c) The time given to the consortia was adequate, as they were required to submit only revised prices, with no changes in the terms and conditions of the original tender.

New Model of Maruti by Suzuki

13. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suzuki (Japan) has decided to introduce a new model of Maruti from May next within almost three years of the introduction of the present model;

(b) whether this will result in dependence on imported Japanese spare parts (75 per cent of the new model and all the imported parts of the present-model cars) for about another 10 years or so as reported in 'Nav Bharat Times', dated March 30, 1986;

(c) how much will Japan earn in this way in foreign exchange; and

(d) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The decision to introduce an updated model of Maruti-800 car was taken by Maruti Udyog Limited.

(b) Maruti Udyog Limted is expected to achieve 95 per cent indigenisation of the car by 1988-89 as planned.

(c) Maruti Udyog Limited has estimated that introduction of an updated model of car will result in an additional foreign exchange expenditure of about US $ 6-7 million on account of import of companies during this year.

(d) These are commercial matters normally to be decided by the Company.

Welfare fund for coal miners

14. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the welfare fund for coal miners is administered by the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies;

(b) if so, how much amount was spent in Maharashtra State as Welfare Fund during the last three years and how much fund was collected from the workmen working in Coal Mines in the State during the above period; and

(c) the items on which the Welfare fund was spent during the last three years in the same State?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, a cess is levied @ 75 paise per tonne on coal and coke despatched from the coal mines. This cess is deposited into a Fund for financing welfare activities of colliery workers. The Fund is administered through the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Organisation; a body corporate under the control of the Central Government. In addition, the Coal India Ltd. makes